

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

EDUCATION MINISTER HONOURS LOCAL TEACHERS

DELTA – Delta teacher Andrew Lum and Surrey vice-principal Antonio Vendramin joined Education Minister Shirley Bond in the legislature today for an Education Week ceremony to recognize recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

"These two educators are an example of the high calibre of teachers in this province," said Bond. "They have encouraged students to be actively involved in the learning process and integrated technology in the classroom to enrich learning for so many students."

Lum, a teacher-librarian at North Delta secondary school, was recognized for enriching learning opportunities through online resources, activities, WebQuests and video streaming that stimulate learning and motivation. Lum encourages students to take ownership of their learning and encourages collaboration to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. In addition to teaching, Lum assists with the boys' rugby program, is organizing a school trip to China and is finishing a documentary on the Second World War in China.

"We are all really proud of Andy," said Delta school board chair Kelly Guichon. "His leadership and initiative in the use of the web and his work with his colleagues to utilize technology make him a worthy recipient of the Prime Minister's Award."

Vendramin, now a vice-principal at Holly elementary school, was recognized for his communication with parents and students, particularly through his class website, and for his use of real-life experiences in lessons. Vendramin encouraged his students to take the lead in school-wide fundraisers and often included them in developing criteria for assignments. In addition to being an educator, Vendramin is also a student, having completed his master's degree at Royal Roads University in 2006 and a technology diploma at Simon Fraser University in 2000.

"Mr. Vendramin is clearly passionate about teaching, and his innovative and collaborative approach continues to benefit students and staff in his new position as a vice-principal and leader in the district," said Shawn Wilson, Surrey school board chair. "Our board, district staff and his colleagues are proud of the work he continues to do in support of student learning."

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Lum and Vendramin are among 14 B.C. educators who received the 2006 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. They joined Education Minister Shirley Bond today to honour their achievement as part of Education Week 2007. During Education Week 2008, Premier Gordon Campbell will announce the first-ever recipients of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence.

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